



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Substitute Bill No. 1310

* _____SB01310ED_APP040605_____*

**AN ACT CONCERNING CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS OF THE
REGIONAL VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2006,
2 the State Board of Education shall report, in accordance with the
3 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
4 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
5 relating to education, on:

6 (1) A revision of the mission statement for the regional vocational-
7 technical school system, which shall include, but not be limited to, an
8 articulation of the following elements: (A) The system's core business
9 and customer focus; (B) the need to improve academic instruction and
10 student achievement; (C) the unique role of the system in providing
11 vocational-technical education within the state; and (D) the system's
12 overall mission of ensuring that each graduate of a regional vocational-
13 technical school (i) meets the entry-level employability requirements of
14 targeted industries and occupations, (ii) meets qualification standards
15 for matriculation in the community-technical college system and other
16 institutions of higher education, and (iii) will be capable of continuing
17 future education and development in response to changing workplace
18 opportunities and demands.

19 (2) A review of the regional vocational-technical school system's

20 organizational structure to (A) determine if the structure supports the
21 revised mission statement developed pursuant to this section, and
22 responds to the system's core business and customer functions; (B)
23 clarify and relate roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability
24 within the system to strategic functions of the system as a whole and
25 the unique functions of individual regional vocational-technical
26 schools and satellite facilities; and (C) reflect in the managerial and
27 administrative evaluation systems the appropriate expectations for
28 annual progress.

29 (3) The establishment of an annual budget and budget requests for
30 the vocational-technical school system as both a separate budget, and a
31 distinct component of the Department of Education budget.

32 (4) The methods for improving the performance measurement and
33 management system for trade programs offered at the regional
34 vocational-technical school system. The report shall identify
35 quantifiable, industry-responsive outcome measures appropriate to
36 each type of trade program, and shall clarify responsibility and
37 accountability for achieving such measures.

38 (5) The implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's
39 Task Force on the Future of the Regional Vocational-Technical School
40 System established under Executive Order No. 24 of Governor John G.
41 Rowland.

42 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2006,
43 the State Board of Education shall require the Commissioner of
44 Education and the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical
45 school system to:

46 (1) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional
47 vocational-technical school system's budget through initiatives that
48 include, but are not limited to, (A) the establishment of an education
49 foundation for the purpose of pursuing financial donations from
50 individuals and employers to support the operation of the regional
51 vocational-technical school system and to reallocate funds received

52 from student entrepreneurial programs, (B) in collaboration with the
53 Office of Policy and Management, a review of regional vocational-
54 technical school system purchases to identify opportunities for cost
55 savings through bulk purchasing contracts or other methods, and (C)
56 the identification of grant programs and application to such programs
57 to support new and existing programs for the regional vocational-
58 technical school system.

59 (2) Develop a triennial survey of (A) employers that participate in
60 regional vocational-technical school programs as career mentors or
61 hire regional vocational-technical students for internships or
62 permanent employment in order to assess the employers' satisfaction
63 with the students' performance, and (B) students who graduated from
64 regional vocational-technical schools in the five years preceding such
65 survey in order to assess the students' satisfaction with their long-term
66 educational and employment accomplishments.

67 (3) Develop a marketing and recruitment strategy consistent with
68 the mission statement revised pursuant to section 1 of this act. Such
69 strategy shall promote the value of vocational-technical education and
70 may target parent, student and industry audiences.

71 Sec. 3. Section 10-95i of the general statutes is repealed and the
72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

73 (a) Not later than January 1, 1990, and every five years thereafter,
74 the State Board of Education shall adopt a long-range plan of priorities
75 and goals for the regional vocational-technical school system. The plan
76 shall address implementation of the revised mission statement of the
77 regional vocational-technical school system developed pursuant to
78 section 1 of this act and coordination with other providers of
79 vocational, technical or technological education or training and shall
80 include (1) an analysis of the activities described in subsections (b) and
81 (c) of this section and how such activities relate to the long-range plan
82 of priorities and goals, and (2) a summary of activities related to
83 capital improvements and equipment pursuant to subsection (d) of

84 this section. Upon adoption of the plan, the state board shall file the
85 plan with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
86 having cognizance of matters relating to education, finance, revenue
87 and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The
88 state board shall use the plan in preparing its five-year comprehensive
89 plan pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-4.

90 (b) During the five-year period beginning January 1, 1990, and
91 during each five-year period thereafter, the State Board of Education
92 shall evaluate each existing regional vocational-technical school trade
93 program in accordance with a schedule [which] that the state board
94 shall establish. A trade program may be reauthorized for a period of
95 not more than five years following each evaluation on the basis of: The
96 projected employment demand for students enrolled in the trade
97 program, including consideration of the employment of graduates of
98 the program during the preceding five years; anticipated technological
99 changes; the availability of qualified instructors; the existence of
100 similar programs at other educational institutions; and student interest
101 in the trade program. As part of the evaluation, the state board shall
102 consider geographic differences that may make a trade program
103 feasible at one school and not another and whether certain
104 combinations of program offerings shall be required. Prior to any final
105 decision on the reauthorization of a trade program, the state board
106 shall consult with the craft committees for the trade program being
107 evaluated.

108 (c) The state board shall consider the addition of new trade
109 programs. Decisions by the state board to add such programs shall at a
110 minimum be based on the projected employment demand for
111 graduates of the program, the cost of establishing the program, the
112 availability of qualified instructors, the existence of similar programs
113 at other educational institutions and the interest of students in the
114 trade. The state board shall authorize new trade programs for a
115 maximum of five years. The state board shall provide a process for the
116 public, including, but not limited to, employers, parents, students or
117 teachers, to request consideration of the establishment of a new trade

118 program.

119 (d) The State Board of Education shall maintain a rolling five-year
120 capital improvement and capital equipment plan that identifies: (1)
121 Alterations, renovations and repairs that each vocational-technical
122 school is expected to need, including, but not limited to, grounds and
123 athletic fields, heating and ventilation systems, wiring, roofs, and
124 windows, and the cost of such projects, (2) recommendations for
125 energy efficiency improvements to each school and the cost of such
126 improvements, [and] (3) the specific equipment each regional
127 vocational-technical school is expected to need, based on the useful life
128 of existing equipment and projections of changing technology and the
129 estimated cost of the equipment, and (4) recommendations for
130 implementing key elements relating to capital needs of the revised
131 mission statement of the regional vocational-technical school system
132 developed pursuant to section 1 of this act. The State Board of
133 Education shall submit such plan, annually, to the joint standing
134 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
135 relating to education, finance, revenue and bonding and
136 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

137 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) All reports or plans required
138 under sections 1 and 2 of this act and section 10-95i of the general
139 statutes, as amended by this act, shall be provided to the Governor's
140 Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology established by
141 Executive Order No. 13 of Governor John G. Rowland, the Office of
142 Workforce Competitiveness and the Connecticut Employment and
143 Training Commission. Each of these groups may, from time to time,
144 make recommendations to the State Board of Education addressing (1)
145 how the regional vocational-technical schools may best meet the skill
146 needs of employers; (2) how the role of technical advisory committees
147 can be strengthened and employer participation increased; (3) how
148 alternative technical training models for eleventh and twelfth grade
149 students, such as tech-prep, shared time, trade academies and
150 preapprenticeship can be expanded, particularly in manufacturing;
151 and (4) new trade programs for such schools.

152 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4, 2006, the
153 Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall submit a report, in
154 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
155 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
156 cognizance of matters relating to education concerning the state's
157 current and future need for welders and recommendations for
158 generating a sufficient number of welders to meet identified workforce
159 needs. Such report shall contain an analysis of the costs and benefits to
160 the state of (1) maintaining existing educational and training programs
161 in welding offered by the regional vocational-technical school system,
162 (2) expanding such programs into four-year vocational-technical
163 programs, and (3) increasing the number of youth preapprentice and
164 apprentice programs in welding through the regional vocational-
165 technical school system.

166 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On and after July 1, 2005,
167 any person hired as principal of a regional vocational-technical school
168 shall (1) have been trained or have experience in one or more trade
169 programs offered in the regional vocational-technical school system, or
170 (2) complete in-service training pursuant to subsection (b) of this
171 section. Such requirement shall be in addition to any other
172 requirement for employment established by the State Board of
173 Education or pursuant to the general statutes.

174 (b) Not later than July 1, 2005, the Commissioner of Education and
175 the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system
176 shall develop and implement an in-service training program to
177 provide training in trade programs offered by the regional vocational-
178 technical school system for persons hired as principals of a regional
179 vocational-technical school.

180 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Commissioner of Education and
181 the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system
182 shall develop a part-time licensed practical nurse program for three
183 regional vocational-technical schools. For the fiscal years ending June
184 30, 2006, to June 30, 2008, inclusive, the commissioner and

185 superintendent shall annually implement such a program at a different
186 regional vocational-technical school. Each program shall be located in
187 a different geographical area of the state.

188 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) On and after July 1, 2005, each
189 principal of a regional vocational-technical school shall develop a
190 portfolio containing an educational evaluation and remedial assistance
191 plan on each student attending the school that scored at the remedial
192 level in math or reading on the state-wide mastery examination offered
193 to students in grade eight pursuant to section 10-14n of the general
194 statutes. The principal shall conduct monthly meetings with the
195 teachers involved in the remedial assistance plan of each such student
196 and update the portfolio according to the student's progress.

197 Sec. 9. Section 10-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
198 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

199 [Prior to July 1, 1998, the State Board of Education shall consist of
200 nine members.] On and after July 1, 1998, the State Board of Education
201 shall consist of eleven members, two of whom shall be nonvoting
202 student members. The Governor shall appoint, with the advice and
203 consent of the General Assembly, the members of said board, provided
204 each student member (1) is on the list submitted to the Governor
205 pursuant to section 10-2a, (2) is enrolled in a public high school in the
206 state, (3) has completed eleventh grade prior to the commencement of
207 [his] a term, (4) has at least a B plus average, and (5) provides at least
208 three references from teachers in the school [he] the student member is
209 attending. Nine members shall serve for terms of four years
210 commencing on March first in the year of their appointment. On and
211 after July 1, 2005, the State Board of Education shall consist of thirteen
212 members, two of whom shall be nonvoting student members.
213 Appointments of the eleven voting members shall include at least one
214 who shall be a graduate of the state's regional vocational-technical
215 school system and one who shall be a representative of business and
216 industry and such graduate and representative shall serve for terms of
217 four years commencing from the date of their appointment. The

218 student members shall serve for terms of one year commencing on July
219 first in the year of their appointment. The Commissioner of Higher
220 Education shall serve as an ex-officio member without a vote. Any
221 vacancy in said State Board of Education shall be filled in the manner
222 provided in section 4-19.

223 Sec. 10. Section 10-95h of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
224 *from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-95i
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-1
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

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Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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